FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

6624550 - Natalie Cujes for National Registrar

NAME
Natalie Cujes
EMAIL
n.cujes@adfa.edu.au
PHONE

ADDRESS

Responses

Question / Answer

Are you an Australian Citizen? (If your answer is no, please provide the date you applied for citizenship or provide evidence of your eligibility to work in Australia)
Yes.

Have you taken a redundancy benefit from an APS agency in the last 12 months? (If your answer is yes, please provide the date of when your redundancy payments will cease)
No.

Are you a current ongoing employee in the APS? (If your answer is yes, please provide the agency you work for and what your ongoing classification is)
No.

Please list contact details of two referees (One should be your current supervisor).
Previous Federal Court supervisors: John Mathieson (as ACT District Registrar) and Angela Josan (as National Appeals Registrar) Current supervisor: may be provided upon request

---

Where did you first hear about this role?
Federal Court website.

**Please enter a comprehensive statement of claims against the selection criteria. We recommend you do this in a word document first, and then cut and paste into the boxes below.

Experience in litigation and case management in superior courts of Australia.**

I have been a litigator since 1994 and with particular specialisation in Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court litigation, case strategy and practice and procedure. I was a Deputy District Registrar of the Federal Court (and a Registrar of the then Federal Magistrates Court) between 2000 and 2009. Since leaving those roles in late 2009, I have advised on matters within those jurisdictions as special counsel with one firm and, since 2014, as the principal of my own firm. In my role with those courts, I performed the functions of a Registrar of the ACT District Registry/Canberra Registry, and was also attached to the Chief Justice's unit for appellate work (primarily assisting in the drafting of Full Court summaries). On occasion, I performed the role of Acting National Appeals Registrar. As the sole Registrar based in Canberra and with no resident Judge for a number of years, I was responsible for the daily case management of all ACT District Registry matters, including Full Court appeals. I worked closely with the ACT List Judge based in Sydney, the relevant appeals Callover Judges and with the National Appeals Registrar based in Melbourne. I also liaised extensively on case management matters with all chambers of relevant docket Judges.

Demonstrated knowledge of the Federal Court's jurisdiction, practices and procedures, or the ability to acquire such knowledge quickly and the ability to interpret and apply rules and regulations.

Apart from the practical experience outlined in the previous section, I am a recognised expert in Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court jurisdiction and practice and procedure. This is demonstrated by: (a) I am a published author of books and other publications about the courts, including: * Cujes, Federal Court Litigation: Promoting the Overarching Purpose (LexisNexis, 2015/16), with a Foreword written by Chief Justice Allsop; * Co-author with the Hon Kevin Lindgren et al of the LexisNexis Butterworths loose-leaf service, Practice and Procedure High Court and Federal Court (Federal Court volume); * Co-author with the Hon Judge Rolf Driver of the Federal Circuit Court volume of the LexisNexis Butterworths loose-leaf service, Practice and Procedure High Court and Federal Court; * Cujes and Ahmed, Annotated Federal Court Legislation and Rules (LexisNexis, 1st ed, 2013); * Lindgren, Cremean and Cujes, Annotated Federal Court Legislation and Rules (LexisNexis, 2nd ed, 2016); (b) My doctoral thesis was on case transfers by the Federal Court to the Federal Magistrates Court and the impact on access to procedural justice.

Highly developed analytical and conceptual skills and demonstrated achievements in developing and implementing improved and innovative services and processes.

I demonstrate highly developed legal analytical and problem-solving skills as both a legal practitioner and tenured university legal academic. I lecture in Business Law and Contract Law at the undergraduate and Masters degree levels at the University of NSW (Australian Defence Force Academy) and I hold appointment as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Law with the School of Law & Justice at the University of Canberra. As the Undergraduate Coordinator responsible for all officer cadet students at the School of Business (ADFA), I am recognised by the University as having introduced a number of streamlined processes and procedures for the management of students and their studies and the enhancement of the student experience. This resulted in my being nominated for a Rector's Teaching Excellence Award. As a former Registrar, I was seconded by the Court in 2005 to the High Court of Fiji (Lautoka Registry) to assist the court with a back-log of some 3,500 cases. I worked with the Judges, Registry staff and local profession in streamlining the conduct and case management of civil cases (including introducing the practice of short minutes of consent orders). My book on promoting the overarching purpose of civil case management (s 37M of the Federal Court of Australia Act) was written in 2015, just prior to the introduction of the key NCF reforms.

Demonstrated ability to critically evaluate information and demonstrate sound judgment in decision making.

I have demonstrated experience and a proven track record in the conduct of matters before the Federal Court as a Registrar, including having presided over corporations public examinations and conducted full taxations (among other things). Of all the decisions I made in the role of a Registrar over a period of about a decade, only one decision was the subject of formal review (and my decision was judicially "upheld").

Highly developed communication skills, including the ability to represent the Court externally and the ability to influence behaviour and attitudes.

As a university lecturer, published author and legal advocate my oral and written communication skills are finely honed. In particular, my publications on the Federal Court have been described by the legal profession as providing considerable assistance to the practice of law before the court. For instance, a former President of the Law Institute of Victoria stated online that my first book "makes us better lawyers". During my time as a Registrar, I worked closely with the ACT legal profession in the provision of Registry assistance and guidance on procedural matters. I presented seminars to the profession through the ACT Law Society on case management and the like. This resulted in more efficient case management practices being employed by practitioners conducting matters before the Federal Court. For the past several years I have continued to be involved in the issues affecting the legal profession and Federal Court and Federal Circuit Court through my Law Council of Australia appointments as a member of the: (a) Federal Court of Australia Liaison Commitee; and (b) Federal Circuit Court of Australia Liaison Committee. I was also an elected Executive Committee Member of the Federal Litigation and Dispute Resolution Section (2014-16). Through the work of these Committees, I and my co-members have met with court officials and made submissions to government for key reforms to court jurisdiction and enhanced access to justice.

Legal qualifications and admission as a practitioner of the High Court or the Supreme Court of a State or Territory of Australia.

Legal qualifications: PhD Law (UOW); Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Political Science (Honours) (ANU) Admitted as a: Barrister-at-Law (Supreme Court of NSW); Barrister and Solicitor (High Court of Australia); Barrister and Solicitor (Supreme Court of the ACT); Barrister and Solicitor (Supreme Court of Victoria). Year of admission: 1994 Current unrestricted practising certificate, Law Society of the ACT.